

## Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MILAN 0440

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, PGOV, PINR, IT

SUBJECT: A CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT VIEWS THE POLITICAL SCENE

1. GINO COLOMBO, MAJOR DC LEADER IN LOMBARDY AND BACKER OF FORLANI-ANDREOTTI POSITION, SUMMARIZED SITUATION TO US IN UNUSUALLY LIMPID ANALYSIS. COLOMBO, A CLOSE CONTACT FOR SOME YEARS, HAS ALWAYS BEEN BOTH WELL INFORMED AND WELL BALANCED.

2. COLOMBO WAS DEPRESSED ABOUT THE AVALANCH OF BAD NEWS FROM THE U.S. WHEN THE DUST HAS SETTLED, THE U.S. WILL EMERGE ON TWO FEET AND BE STRONG AND CLEANER. BUT ITS ALLIES AROUND THE WORLD WILL BE DESTROYED. THE IMPACT OF THE SCANDALS OF CIA FINANCING, OF LOCKHEED AND OIL COMPANY BRIBES IS A DISASTER FOR THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS. ANY IDEA OF EARLY ELECTIONS WAS BLOWN TO KINGDOM COME WITH THESE SCANDALS AND EVEN DELAYING ELECTIONS UNTIL 1977, THE DC WILL PAY SEVERAL PERCENTAGE POINTS FOR THESE REVELATIONS.

3. IT'S NOW NEWS THAT ANYONE WANTING TO DO GOVERNMENT BUSINESS IN ITALY

MUST PAY SOMEBODY. WHAT IS NEWS, SAID COLOMBO, IS THAT THE U.S. IS SO INSENSITIVE AS TO PUBLICIZE THE FACT AND HURT ITSELF AND ITS FRIENDS IN THE PROCESS. IF THE INVESTIGATION CONTINUES, FEW WILL ESCAPE WHO HAS HELD HIGH GOVERNMENT OFFICE.

4. THE BRIBE SOLICITORS ALWAYS INSIST THEY ARE ACTING FOR  
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SOMEONE ELSE - OR FOR "THE PARTY". COLOMBO MAINTAINED THAT

HE HAD WIND OF VARIOUS PAY-OFFS WHEN HE WAS MILAN DC SECRETARY,  
BUT NEVER SAW A LIRA FOR THE PARTY.

5. THE LOMBARDY DC PARTY, IN FACT, IS BROKE. FOR THREE YEARS  
COLOMBO SAID, THE DC IN ROME HAS RECEIVED ITS LEGAL ALLOWANCE  
FROM THE TREASURY. BUT NONE OF THIS MONEY HAS EVERY REACHED  
LOMBARDY. IT SIMPLY DISAPPEARS IN ROME. IT IS AN ISSUE THAT  
WILL BE FOUGHT AT THE DC NATIONAL CONGRESS.

6. THE MILAN DC IS IN DISARRAY, COLOMBO LAMENTED. THERE IS  
NO LEADER. VITTORINO COLOMBO IS NOMINALLY THE CITY SECRETARY  
BUT HE SPENDS ALL OF HIS TIME IN ROME. THE PROVINCIAL SECRETARY,  
GIANSTEFANO FRIGERIO, IS WEAK AND A FAILURE WHO WILL BE  
REPLACED. SIMILARLY, THE REGIONAL SECRETARY, ALBERTO GALLI,  
IS INEFFECTIVE. AS A RESULT, THERE IS NOT MUCH HAPPENING IN  
THE DC ORGANIZATION.

7. THE DC NATIONAL CONGRESS IS SHAPING UP TO A ROUGHLY EVEN  
SPLIT BETWEEN THE MORO-ZACCAGNINI BLOC AND THAT OF ANDREOTTI-  
FORLANI. AS A RESULT, COLOMBO GUESSED THAT NEITHER MORO NOR  
FORLANI WOULD BE SELECTED BUT A THIRD PARTY ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH.  
HE IS VERY DOWN ON MORO DESCRIBING HIM AS TIRED AND RESIGNED TO  
FAILURE. HE REPEATED THE FREQUENTLY TOLD STORY THAT MORO BE-  
LIEVES PCI ENTRY TO THE GOVERNMENT TO BE INEVITABLE - THAT THE  
PCI REALLY IS THE WAVE OF THE FUTURE.

8. COLOMBO IS DEAD-SET AGAINST THAT RESIGNATION. HE SAYS  
THAT THE FORLANI-ANDREOTTI POSITIONIS TO MAKE A DEAL WITH THE  
SOCIALISTS AT ONCE TO RETURN TO THE GOVERNMENT, GIVING THEM, IF  
NEED BE, THE PRIME MINISTRY. HE WANTS TO BREAK DC AND PSI  
DEPENDENCE ON THE COMMUNISTS. THE SOCIALISTS ARE HARD TO TAKE,  
HE INSISTED, BUT IT IS THAT OR A PCI-PSI GOVERNMENT.

9. IF THE DC CAN'T MAKE A MAJORITY WITH THE PSI, COLOMBO WOULD  
FAVOR THE DC GOING INTO THE OPPOSITION TO LET THE PCI AND PSI  
TRY GOVERNMENT FOR A WHILE. HE THINKS THAT WOULD STIMULATE  
PSI INDEPENDENCE AND HELP THE DC REBUILD TO RETURN TO A LATER  
COALITION WITH A MORE SOBER PSI.

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10. ABORTION IS THE TICKING BOMB, ACCORDING TO COLOMBO. IT  
WOULD BE A DISASTER OF HISTORIC DIMENSIONS WERE THE DC OBLIGED  
TO OPPOSE ABORTION IN A REFERENDUM. MEN AS A WHOLE AREN'T  
OPPOSED AND WOMEN TEND TO WANT THE RIGHT TO DECIDE FOR THEM-  
SELVES. IT'S NOT A POLITICAL BATTLE THAT CAN ANY LONGER BE  
WON IN ITALY. THE TROUBLE IS THAT THE CHURCH IS RESOLUTELY  
OPPOSED TO THE ABORTION BILL NOW IN PARLIAMENT. AND WHILE  
IT CAN'T CARRY THE PUBLIC, IT CAN CARRY ENOUGH DC SENATORS TO

BE ABLE TO BLOCK ADOPTION IN THE SENATE. IT IS SUICIDAL POLITICALLY, BUT THE VATICAN REFUSES TO CONSIDER THE POLITICAL COST. AND THE DC IS IRONICALLY THE PARTY THAT WILL BE FURTHER RUINED TRYING TO FOLLOW THE CHURCH LEAD, HE SAID.

11. THE CORRIERE DELLA SERA HAS SHIFTED ITS LINE BECAUSE IT NEEDS THE MONEY BEING DOLED OUT BY THE DC TO SURVIVE. ANDREOTTI IS AN OLD FRIEND OF THE ELDER RIZZOLI WHOSE PRO-COMMUNIST SON RUNS THE CORRIERE. NOW RIZZOLI THE YOUNGER IS TROTTERING AROUND ASSURING ANYONE WHO WILL LISTEN OF HIS ANTI-COMMUNISM AND OF HIS DESERVING HELP. COLOMBO GRINNED AND SAID HE HAD KNOWN HIM TOO LONG TO TRUST HIM. RIZZOLI THE YOUNGER HAS LONG FAVORED THE HISTORIC COMPROMISE AND EVERYONE KNEW IT. HE DOUBTED THAT EXPOSURE TO RED INK ON HIS BALANCE SHEET HAD REALLY LED TO A MIRACULOUS CONVERSION TO ANTI-COMMUNISM. THE ERROR WAS TO BAIL HIM OUT. THE DC SHOULD HAVE LET HIM GO BROKE AND THEN STEPPED IN TO BUY HIM OUT CHEAP TO GET CONTROL OF THE CORRIERE. BUT THOSE SOUTHERN ITALIAN POLITICIANS IN ROME, SIGHED, ASSUME THAT ANYONE CAN BE BOUGHT - AND WILL STAY BOUGHT. COLOMBO DISAGREED.FINA

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